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This Notice serves an alerting function and is designed to support current decisions on national security policy or posture.

THERE ARE GROWING INDICATIONS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT MAY SELECT A MILITARY OPTION.

(TS [redacted] /NFD/NDA/BUO/CD/WNS/ISM) On 7 March 1975, "Sadat Develops

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Plans and Capabilities to Exercise Military Option." This warning appraisal reviewed new Egyptian contingency planning for offensive operations; Sadat's order for his armed forces to be fully prepared for war by the end of March; the Soviet rearmament of Egyptian military; an Egyptian force assessment; and the portents of hostilities. This appraisal concluded that while Sadat preferred a political solution to the Middle East crisis, he had taken the highly pragmatic steps of rearming the Egyptian armed forces and preparing a deliberate offensive plan in the event diplomatic negotiations failed.

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(TS [redacted] /NFD) In spite of political and economic factors which mitigate against Cairo choosing the war option at this time, there are convincing military indications that point to the increased possibility of war. There are indicators similar to those observed prior to October 1973 that reveal Egypt may be planning a major military action on or about 28 March. A strategic exercise is scheduled to begin between the 27th and the 29th and is to continue through at least 3 April. This activity has the potential of being a cover for either a large-scale offensive in the Sinai or a more limited operation against Israeli facilities -- such as the Abu Rudeis oil fields -- on the Gulf of Suez.

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(TS [redacted] /NFD) Since the collapse of the step-by-step negotiating effort, the following indicators may also reflect Sadat's decision to implement his offensive contingency plan:

(Continued)

NSA review completed

DIA review completed

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--- The strategic exercise "Abu Rudeis/Suez-5" involving at least air force, navy, and commando entities was initially to commence at 2200Z on 27 March, but may have been postponed until 1400Z on the 29th.

--- Live firing by air defense and navy units is scheduled for 27 and 28 March.

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--- Air defense, ground, and naval units were noted in increased readiness postures after 21 March.

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(TS [redacted] NFD) The overall pattern of recent Egyptian military actions since Sadat's ordered re-orientation of his forces is interpreted as an orderly process of preparation for war that is rapidly nearing completion.

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